**Workers killed/injured due to collapse of portion of T3 tunnel of Tehri Dam**

*9. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers have been killed and injured as a result of collapse of unlined portion of T3 tunnel of Tehri Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the matter has been probed by Government and if so, by whom and what are its findings?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There was a massive rockfall in T-3 shaft of spillway from an Elevation Level (EL) of about 693 M around 10.30 P.M. on 2nd August, 2004 in Tehri Hydro-electric Project Stage-I (1000 MW). As a consequence, one executive and 28 workers of M/s. Jai Prakash Industries Ltd. died, and 11 workers of the same firm were injured in this incident.

(c) A High Level Enquiry Committee headed by Shri M.S. Reddy, Ex-Chairman, Central Water Commission & Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and one Member each from Central Water Commission (CWC) and Central Electricity Authority was constituted on 3rd August, 2004 by the Government of India to inquire into incident. The conclusions of the Enquiry Committee are:—

* The accident is freak and nobody could possibly be held responsible for the same.

* Rock-ball could not have been foreseen. It is due to a combination of many intangible factors. However, the fall might not have been sudden. There might have been a movement prior to the fall. Such movement has gone unnoticed due to its view being obstructed by the working platform and due to insufficient lighting below the platform.

* Extreme care is required in carrying out the balance work in Shaft-3, especially at its junction with Intermediate Level Outlet (ILO).

* Advice of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) may be sought for construction sequencing in both Shaft-3 and shaft-4. TAC should be used more effectively.

* There is a need for re-look into the composition of the TAC.

**Investment for strengthening of power transmission system in the Southern Region**

*10. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved an investment of Rs. 285 crores for strengthening the power transmission system in the Southern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many State Governments in Southern Region have demanded more investment in power sector by the Government to enhance the power supply in this region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme for System Strengthening-III of Southern Region Grid at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.78 crores has been approved in October, 2004. The scheme envisages the following scope of work:

(i) Raichur-Gooty 400 KV Double Circuit Line (with Quad Conductors)

(ii) Nelamangla-Somanahally 400 KV D/C line.

(iii) Extension of Gooty, Raichur, Nelamangla and Somanahally substations.

The scheme is scheduled to be completed by April, 2007. The transmission system shall strengthen the existing transmission network in Southern Region and improve its stability and reliability.

(c) and (d) State Government from time to time request for the inclusion of some transmission lines for construction in the Central Sector. The Central Transmission Utility undertakes construction of inter-state transmission line within the region for ensuring stable and reliable operation of the regional grid.